



**HURON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
July 6, 2023, at 1:00 PM

**Present:** Dr. Gottfried, Kathleen Butler, Lisa Nedolast, Dane Howard, Jeremy Loose, Ron Robinson

**Virtual:** Kim Stults

**Absent:** Lisa Reer, Greg Polachek

**HCPH Staff:** Tim Hollinger, Karen Boose, Nicole Marks, Eric Cherry, Chris Cherry, Melissa Caranfa

**Guest(s) In Person:** Matt Roche-Norwalk Ohio News

The Board of Health of Huron County Public Health (HCPH), Huron County, Ohio met at a regular meeting of the Board on July 6, 2023, at HCPH Conference Room 1. Board President, Dr. Gottfried called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. Dr. Gottfried requested a roll call. Mrs. Marks completed a roll call.

Dr. Gottfried opened the meeting with a public comment period. With no public comments, Dr. Gottfried asked for a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) and (G)(2). Mr. Loose made a motion to go into executive session and Mrs. Butler seconded the motion. A roll call was taken. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried upon a roll call vote.

Dr. Gottfried asked for a motion to come out of executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) and (G)(2). Mr. Howard made a motion to come out of executive session and Mrs. Butler seconded the motion. A roll call was taken. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2023-49, June 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Loose made a motion to approve the June 2023 meeting minutes and Mrs. Nedolast seconded the motion. A roll call was taken. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-50, a resolution to approve the payment of the monthly expenditures with prior approval. Dr. Gottfried requested a motion to present and approve Resolution 2023-50. Mr. Loose made a motion to approve the payment of the monthly expenditures with prior approval. Mrs. Butler seconded the motion. With no questions, the motion carried upon a roll call vote. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-51, a resolution to approve the June 2023 budgetary transactions. Dr. Gottfried requested a motion to present and approve Resolution 2023-51. Mrs. Butler made a motion to present and approve Resolution 2023-51, approval of the June 2023 budgetary transactions and Mrs. Nedolast seconded the motion. Mrs. Boose gave further information on Resolution 2023-51, reviewing all appropriation adjustments for the month of June. The motion carried upon a roll call vote. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-52, 2023 Quarterly General Fund Budget Review (Quarter 2). Mr. Loose made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-52, 2023 Quarterly General Fund Budget Review (Quarter 2). Mr. Howard seconded the motion. Mrs. Boose explained that this is a review of the General Fund and special funds. It is a look at what was budgeted for the year and where HCPH currently stands. With no questions the motion carried upon a roll call vote. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard- Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-53, Request to accept funding from, and appropriate additional grant funds for the Ohio Health Improvement Zones (OHIZ) Pilot Project. Mr. Loose made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-53, Request to accept funding from, and appropriate additional grant funds for the Ohio Health Improvement Zones (OHIZ) Pilot Project and Mrs. Nedolast seconded the motion. Mrs. Marks reviewed the grant saying additional funds were offered for this grant. HCPH was originally awarded \$100,000 and is now being awarded \$156,000 additional for a total grant award of \$256,000. With no questions the motion carried upon a roll call vote. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard- Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-54, Request to accept resignation, Caranfa; advertise for and hire Epidemiologist/Planner. Mr. Loose made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-54, Request to accept resignation, Caranfa; advertise for and hire Epidemiologist/Planner and was seconded by Mrs. Butler. Mrs. Marks explained that Melissa Caranfa put in her resignation effective July 14, 2023, and informed the Board members that HCPH must have an Epidemiologist/Planner for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant. This resolution allows HCPH to advertise for and hire and EPI/Planner at the pay range of \$21.00-\$29.00 per hour based on qualifications. Mr. Loose asked whether the pay scale is equitable to get people in this position at this time. Mr. Hollinger explained it will be difficult at this time but in a following resolution he is asking that the board approve to increase the pay ranges and this would make it better. With no other questions the motion carried upon a roll call vote. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard- Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried then moved on to Resolution 2023-55, Resolution to sell unused equipment. Mrs. Butler made a motion to hear Resolution 2023-55, Resolution to sell unused equipment and Mr. Loose seconded the motion. Mr. Hollinger explained that HCPH has three portable generators, two small and one large. These were bought with grant dollars and are about fifteen years old. HCPH has never used these generators. Discussion followed. Mr. Hollinger was asked what he expected to get for the generators, and he explained he would only be guessing since they are fifteen years old or older. With no further questions a roll call was taken. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard- Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried then moved onto Resolution 2023-56, Request to approve 2023 HCPH staff pay ranges. Mr. Howard made a motion to hear and approve Resolution 2023-56, Request to approve 2023 HCPH staff pay ranges and Mr. Loose seconded the motion. Mrs. Boose explained that they look at the pay ranges annually and the only one they updated this time is the Epidemiologist pay range and that was raised to \$29.00 per hour for the upper end. With no questions a roll call was taken. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-57, a resolution approving a cost-of-living increase. Mrs. Butler made a motion to hear and approve Resolution 2023-57, approve a cost-of-living increase and Mrs. Nedolast seconded the motion. Mr. Hollinger explained that the Board sat through executive session and thoroughly discussed the

finances of where HCPH is and the current situation of the cost of living and inflation continues to rise and the difficulty HCPH is having in retaining staff, as well as the competitive nature of the workforce at the present time. He explained the need to try and show the staff that HCPH is trying to keep them as close as possible to what inflation is doing. The discussion was around what percentage of a pay increase that the Board wanted to give to the employees. Mr. Hollinger then turned things back over to Dr. Gottfried. Dr. Gottfried asked for a motion and Mrs. Butler moved to approve a 4% wage increase for employees. Mrs. Nedolast seconded the motion. Dr. Gottfried asked if there was any further discussion and with there being none a roll call vote was taken. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried asked for a motion to discuss the fiscal report. Mr. Loose made a motion to hear the fiscal report and Mrs. Nedolast seconded the motion. Mrs. Boose then reviewed the fund balance report and the General Fund outstanding advance and the total of all funds. She also went over the general fund budget performance and covered some June expense highlights. Mrs. Boose explained the financial audit for 2022 is complete. She will send to Board members to review. The audit was submitted to the Ohio Department of Health as required. With no questions for Mrs. Boose, Dr. Gottfried asked for a roll call. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Howard-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mrs. Nedolast-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried asked for a motion to hear the Communicable Disease and School Absenteeism Report. Mrs. Butler made a motion to hear the Communicable Disease and School Absenteeism Report. Mr. Loose seconded the motion. Melissa Caranfa then presented the report. Mrs. Caranfa reported there were twenty-two reportable disease cases reported in June, and reviewed highlights for communicable disease reporting, COVID-19 and school absentee surveillance. Mrs. Caranfa explained that Huron County had one "Candida Auris (C. auris) case. Mrs. Caranfa explained that we have surpassed the number of recordable diseases from last year already. Mrs. Caranfa shared information on the Ohio Departments of Health tick borne disease surveillance. Mrs. Caranfa also discussed malaria and the two reported cases in the United States. Dr. Gottfried thanked Mrs. Caranfa for all of her hard work with the department and wished her well in her new endeavors. With no questions Dr. Gottfried asked for all those in favor of accepting the Communicable Disease and School Absenteeism Report as presented to say Aye and all opposed Nay. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hollinger then discussed the food borne illness outbreak, and reported that HCPH is still waiting for results. The ODH did not have the ability to do some of the testing and is awaiting approval from the CDC to send to samples for further testing.

Dr. Gottfried then informed the Board members they would be moving on to Board of Health education. Education began at 2:37PM. Mr. Hollinger explained that the educational topic was serious one. He explained that they were going to talk about three distinct categories related to suicide. There is suicide ideation, attempted suicides, and suicides that have been completed. Each of these have distinct circumstances and statistical data. He explained that suicide is the tenth leading cause of death among Americans of all ages. It is also the second leading cause of death among kids ages 15-24. This is not just a problem in the big metropolitan areas, this is in homes here in Huron County and in the people we love. We have an unreasonable number of kids here with prescriptions for anti-anxiety medications, a set of state laws that tie our school administrations hands as far as questioning or punishing unexcused absences and a level of marijuana and nicotine vaping that is happening in our schools that should be concerning to everyone. Our community needs to pay attention and become alarmed about what is going on and about these mental health trends. Mr. Hollinger shared some maps and graphs with data for the board to review. The graphs broke the data out by age ranges, showing the age group that presents the most to emergency rooms with suicide ideation. Mr. Hollinger discussed data from some of the graphs. Mr.

Hollinger explained that smart phones/social media have played a big part in this with the youth. This is very concerning data for our youth and community. The Huron County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services, HCPH, as well as several other organizations are meeting and brainstorming to come up with ideas to address this situation. Education was completed at 2:50PM.

Dr. Gottfried then announced that Lisa Nedolast was leaving the Board of Health, and this would be her last meeting. Mrs. Nedolast explained that she was moving to Medina next Saturday. Dr. Gottfried thanked Mrs. Nedolast for her service to the people of Huron County.

Dr. Gottfried asked the board members if any of them had thought more about the gun violence and informed them that since Saturday we have had seventeen more mass shootings in the U.S. Dr. Gottfried asked if anyone had any ideas. No one had anything and Dr. Gottfried said he did not either, but this is a definite problem. Dr. Gottfried informed Board members if anything dawned on them in the next few months, to please bring it up at a Board meeting.

With no additional business, Dr. Gottfried adjourned the meeting at 2:53PM.